

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2006/01/12 : CIA-RDP86B00985R000100040077-4

7 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted] Special Assistant to the Director of Personnel

FROM

: [redacted] Summer Intern  
DD/I Special Research Staff

SUBJECT

: Comments on Summer Intern Program

1. The summer internship has fulfilled its basic goals of introducing me to the methodology, general organization, and importance of the Central Intelligence Agency.

2. Arriving from graduate school, I truthfully did not know exactly what to expect either in the way of research or the proximity of intelligence gathering to intelligence consumption. Academia had disappointed me because of the paucity of top-level work on my field of interest, Chinese Communist military affairs, and also because the school which I attended, supposedly a superior installation, had harshly discriminated against Asian Studies in general and Chinese studies in particular in favor of an ethnocentrically oriented concentration on Europe.

3. Working at CIA in the midst of [redacted] Special Research Staff, I found a thoroughness undreamed of on the outside. And this was, I believe, not due to the acquisition of classified material, but to the painstaking and meticulous accumulation and processing of quite overt information. Here I learned the value of the patient collecting of small facts and of the abstract of hundreds of pieces of data. But most importantly, the scholars in this office had no need to generalize or to prune the facts to fit into preconceived theories and hypotheses. Naturally, my summer with SRS is not the normal experience of a CIA employee. My hosts were kind enough not to point out how I was to do everything assigned to me. In this manner, I felt like a regular member of the staff, expected to responsibly discharge a

Approved For Release 2006/01/12 : CIA-RDP86B00985R000100040077-4

CONFIDENTIAL

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2006/01/12 : CIA-RDP86B00985R000100040077-4

long-range assignment, given few explicit directions. After reading some finished products, I understood what was expected and then undertook the small projects.

4. A summer with the Agency has also dispelled several misconceptions I held concerning intelligence work in general. However much I had rejected the James Bond model, it had remained difficult to conceive of any highly-organized and efficient institution where intelligence was much more than "mounting operations." Only in the last three years did intelligence as a product, packaged from collector to consumer appear as the main reason for the existence of an intelligence agency in the first place.

5. Both the importance and highly-organized nature of CIA is evidenced by the wide range of tools at the fingertips of the Agency. We became aware of these tools through a series of informative briefings presented during the summer. The briefings, unfortunately, by-passed NSA and did not satisfactorily explain the subjective relations of influence and power between CIA and other interested organs such as the Army, Congress and the Executive. A knowledge of this, however, is unnecessary insofar as the interns are engaged on the lowest rung of professional intelligence activities and that such a knowledge could only be imparted from top-level experience.

6. In a very unprofessional way, also, this summer has been quite valuable. I came away with a different point of view of CIA and an eagerness to dispel other people's preconceptions. And the summer was spent among people whom I like to consider are now more than just acquaintances.

7. Naturally, a too laudatory summary is immediately suspect, and I feel guilty not being able to criticize anything substantial. But it is undeniable that this work experience has been totally satisfactory to me.

25X1

Distribution:

- 0 & 1 - Addressee
- 1 - O/DDI Admin
- 2 - DDI/SRS

CONFIDENTIAL